

have continued to search for answers about their welfare, we have been forced to add more names to the list of those for whom we have no knowledge of their location, health, or safety.

IDF Soldier Guy Chever disappeared without a trace from his army base in the Golan on August 17th, 1997. Almost three years later, Colonel Elchanan Tanenbaum was kidnapped by Hezbollah while on a business trip in Europe on October 15th, 2000. Left behind are two more families who simply do not know what has become of their loved ones.

And at this time, I feel it is also appropriate to speak not only of those who remain missing, but for those who were unfairly taken from their families never to return. I am speaking of course of Sergeant Adi Avitan of Tiberias, Staff Sergeant Binyamin Avraham of Bnei Brak, and Staff Sergeant Omar Souad of Salma.

In a clear-cut violation of international law, these three Israeli soldiers were abducted by Hezbollah on October 7, 2000 while on operational duty along the border fence in the Dov Mountain range along Israel's border with Lebanon. It is believed that they were wounded during the incident.

According to an investigation by the IDF Northern Command, Hezbollah terrorists set two roadside bombs, then crossed through a gate near the fence, pulled the three soldiers out of their jeep and fired anti-armor missiles at the empty vehicle. The soldiers were then taken by the terrorists to the Lebanese side of the border. Although the United States called on Syria to assist in the timely release of these three soldiers, no information was given as to their conditions or whereabouts. The International Red Cross had also been requested to intervene by attempting to arrange for a visit with the three kidnapped IDF soldiers in order to ascertain their status.

After much soul searching and heartache, it was determined that the return of these men to their homes and loved ones could no longer be hoped for. Their families have grieved, and my heart goes out to them. The hope I hold now is that we will not allow the families of those who remain missing to suffer in the same way.

The agony of the families of these kidnapped Israeli soldiers is extreme. They have not heard a word regarding the fate of their sons who are being held captive for political ransom. We must pledge to do our utmost to bring these soldiers home, for the same of peace, decency and humanity.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I regret I was not able to vote on S. Res. 272. My airline flight back to Washington, DC was delayed for many hours because of adverse weather conditions. I express my support for this measure and applaud its passage. A national referendum to support a more democratic

process based upon 10,000 signatures to the Cuban National Assembly is laudable. I ask that the record show that I would have voted in favor of S. Res. 272 and I support its passage. My vote did not affect the outcome because the resolution passed overwhelmingly.

#### SUPPORT OF AMERICAN SILVER EAGLE BULLION PROGRAM ACT

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, last week I introduced with my colleague from Nevada, Senator REID, the Support of American Silver Eagle Bullion Program Act. This legislation will preserve our most successful silver coin program, the American Silver Eagle Bullion Program.

From the inception of the program, the Silver Eagle coin has been the domestic and global market share leader in commemorative coin programs. It is also the largest of the United States Mint's silver coin programs. From Fiscal Year 1995–2001, the program has generated revenues of more than \$264 million. Profits from this program ultimately go into the Treasury General Fund, which reduces the government's debt.

Since 1986, the Mint, through interagency agreements with the Defense Logistics Agency, has been using the Strategic and Critical Materials Stockpile as a source of silver from the American Eagle Silver Bullion Program. The use of the Stockpile silver is a result of legislative mandates. This stockpile of silver, which had a beginning balance of 137.5 million ounces, is rapidly being depleted. At the current rate of depletion, the silver will be depleted in approximately two months.

With the depletion of silver reserves in the Defense Logistics Agency Stockpile, it has become necessary for the Department of the Treasury to acquire silver from other sources in order to continue the Silver Eagle Program. This bill adds a stockpile depletion contingency provision to the United States Code that allows the Secretary of the Treasury to obtain silver from other available sources, while not paying more than the average world price.

I rise today to introduce this legislation because it is vital to the economy in my home State of Idaho. The mines of the Silver Valley in North Idaho produce more than \$70 million of silver per year, along with employing over 3,000 Idahoans and contributing more than \$900 million to the overall Idaho economy.

Moreover, I am proud to recognize that the blanks used by the United States mint in their American Eagle Silver Bullion Program are produced by Sunshine Minting, Inc., in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Approximately 60 people at Sunshine Minting work directly on the U.S. Mint Silver Eagle Program.

Idaho's mining sector is a critical component of our national economy, and this bill makes certain that we preserve the Silver Eagle program and keep valuable mining jobs in Idaho and

other silver mining states. It is my hope that the Senate will move expeditiously to consider and pass this legislation before the stockpile is deleted.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### FOUR SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENTS TO PRESENT HISTORY PROJECTS

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate four Cheraw, SC, students who will be in Washington, DC tomorrow exhibiting their history projects as part of National History Day.

These young historians were selected out of more than half a million from across America, and they are bringing with them months of research. They earned the trip by showing they are the best of the best, and our State and Nation are better off for their hard work. When young people, on their own, want to understand the fundamental principles and values of our democracy, they are more likely to vote. They are more likely to participate in public service. They are more likely to take seriously the civic commitment this nation needs in the new century.

I wish the very best to Bryan Blair, whose exhibit is "The Orangeburg Massacre: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in South Carolina"; and to Meagan Linton, Mary Hudson, and Jordan Thomas, whose exhibit is: "Tears of Sorrow or Tears of Joy: Reaction to the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln."•

#### IN HONOR OF W. RALPH GAMBER, FOUNDER OF DUTCH GOLD HONEY

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, Friday, June 14, is our National Flag Day. This year, Flag Day has special meaning for many in Lancaster, PA, it will be a day of remembrance for the life and work of W. Ralph Gamber. It is particularly appropriate that Ralph's legacy will be honored on Flag Day; in many ways, he lived the American dream through the kind of patriotism that is grounded in community involvement and love of family. The company Ralph founded in 1946, Dutch Gold Honey, Inc., will also be honored as part of his legacy and those who will gather at the site of his family business in Lancaster will dedicate a flagpole in his memory.

Ralph Gamber began his honey processing business with a \$27 investment in three beehives in the mid-1940s. What was initially a hobby of canning honey in the family garage grew to be a vehicle for innovation and a model for the success of hard work and family cooperation. Today, Dutch Gold Honey is one of the largest independent honey packers in the nation and, as an industry symbol of quality and partnership, remains family-owned and operated. The plastic honey bears seen on the shelves of every grocery store in America are Ralph's invention and their success led to the creation of the Gamber